

Bird Hunter Survey annually when that survey is conducted nationwide, beginning in 1998.

Annual Burden Hours: 131,992.

Dated: March 13, 1998.

Carolyn A. Bohan,

Acting Assistant Director for Refuges and Wildlife.

[FR Doc. 98-7078 Filed 3-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-F

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Intent to Prepare Comprehensive Conservation Plans and Associated Environmental Documents for the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge and the Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) intends to gather information necessary to prepare two Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) and environmental documents pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations. One CCP will be prepared for Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, in Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky and Pennsylvania. The second CCP will be prepared for Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex, including Ninigret, Block Island, Pettaquamscutt Cove, Sachuest Point, and Trustum Pond National Wildlife Refuges in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The Service is furnishing this notice in compliance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.):

- (1) To advise other agencies and the public of our intentions, and
- (2) To obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to include in the environmental documents.

DATES: Inquire at the addresses below for dates of planning activity and due dates for comments regarding specific projects.

ADDRESSES: Address comments, questions and requests for more information to the following:

Refuge Manager, Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 1811, Parkersburg, WV 26101-1811, (304) 422-0752.

Refuge Manager, Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex, P.O. Box 307, Charlestown, RI 02813-0307, (401) 364-9124.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: By federal law, all lands within the National

Wildlife Refuge System are to be managed in accordance with an approved CCP. The CCP guides management decisions and identifies refuge goals, long-range objectives, and strategies for achieving refuge purposes. The planning process will consider many elements including habitat and wildlife management, habitat protection and acquisition, public use, and cultural resources. Public input into this planning process is essential. The CCP will provide other agencies and the public with a clear understanding of the desired conditions for the Refuges and how the Service will implement management strategies.

The Service will solicit public input via open houses, public input via open houses, public meetings, workshops, and written comments. Special mailings, newspaper articles, and announcements will inform people of the time and place of such opportunities for public input to the CCP.

The Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge is scattered along approximately 400 river miles from western Pennsylvania, on the borders of northwestern West Virginia and northern Kentucky, and southeastern and southern Ohio. Established in 1990, the Refuge currently consists of 19 islands. Comments and ideas for the protection of threatened and endangered species and migratory birds and the protection and management of their habitats will be solicited as part of the planning process. Comments on the protection of shallow water embayments and wetlands along the river will also be solicited.

The Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex currently consists of 1534 acres of coastal habitats—barrier beach, salt marsh, freshwater wetlands, grasslands, and shrublands. The complex is comprised of five National Wildlife Refuges: Ninigret (408 acres), Block Island (68 acres), Pettaquamscutt Cove (174 acres), Sachuest Point (242 acres), and Trustum Pond (642 acres). Comments and ideas for the protection of threatened and endangered species and migratory birds and the protection and management of their habitats will be solicited as part of the planning process.

Review of these projects will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), NEPA Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and Service policies and procedures for compliance with those regulations.

Dated: March 9, 1998.

Ronald E. Lambertson,

Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts.

[FR Doc. 98-7125 Filed 3-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Applications for Permit

The following applicants have applied for a permit to conduct certain activities with endangered species. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.):

PRT-840255

Applicant: The Zoological Society of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.

The applicant requests a permit to import a male Greater Indian One-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) from the Metropolitan Toronto Zoo, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, for the purpose of enhancement of the species through breeding.

PRT-839380

Applicant: Dr. John Faaborg, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

The applicant requests a permit to import blood samples from Galapagos hawks (*Buteo galapagoensis*) collected in the wild in Ecuador, incidental to other research activities, for scientific research.

PRT-840226

Applicant: William Wrightson, Boston, MA.

The applicant requests a permit to purchase feathers of Swinhoe's pheasants (*Lophura swinhoei*) and of the genus *Polyplectreon* in interstate commerce for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT-840483

Applicant: Keith Masserant, Newport, MI.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT-840484

Applicant: Linda Masserant, Newport, MI.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd

maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

PRT-840485

Applicant: Lawrence I. Masserant, Newport, MI.

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus dorcas*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

The public is invited to comment on the following application for a permit to conduct certain activities with marine mammals. The application was submitted to satisfy requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing marine mammals (50 CFR 18).

PRT-837414

Applicant: Alaska Sealife Center, Seward, AK.

Permit Type: Take for enhancement/scientific research.

Name and Number of Animals: northern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris lutris*) and walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*), unlimited.

Summary of Activity to Be Authorized: The applicant requests authorization for species enhancement and scientific research for the following activities: recovery and rehabilitation of sick and stranded sea otters and walrus, and investigations of new rehabilitation protocols for sea otters to increase the chances of successful reintroduction. The applicant has proposed to include an education component to the rehabilitation program to help educate the public of species biology and conservation.

Source of Marine Mammals: Range of species in Alaska.

Period of Activity: Up to 5 years from issuance date of permit, if issued.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, the Office of Management Authority is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and the Committee of Scientific Advisors for their review.

PRT-839985

Applicant: Thomas A. Rue, Ovando, MT.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted prior to April 30, 1994, from the Baffin Bay polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

PRT-840250

Applicant: Fred D. Rich, Portland, TX.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*)

sport-hunted from the Southern Beaufort Sea polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

PRT-840283

Applicant: Ralph W. Brockman, Monroe, LA.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted prior to April 30, 1994, from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

PRT-840287

Applicant: Robert L. Zachrich, Holgate, OH.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted prior to April 30, 1994, from the Lancaster Sound polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

PRT-840286

Applicant: John Victor Lattimore III, Denison, TX.

The applicant requests a permit to import a polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) sport-hunted from the Southern Beaufort Sea polar bear population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Written data or comments should be submitted to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203 and must be received by the Director within 30 days of the date of this publication.

Documents and other information submitted with these applications are available for review, *subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act*, by any party who submits a written request for a copy of such documents to the following office within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone: (703/358-2104); FAX: (703/358-2281).

Dated: March 13, 1998.

MaryEllen Amtower,

Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 98-7079 Filed 3-18-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Issuance of Permit for Marine Mammals

On December 19, 1997, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 62, No. 244, Page 66660, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Eugene Giscombe for a permit (PRT-837603) to import a sport-hunted polar bear trophy, taken from the McClintock Channel population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on February 10, 1998, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

On January 6, 1998, a notice was published in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 63, No. 3, Page 571, that an application had been filed with the Fish and Wildlife Service by Stephen C. Slack for a permit (PRT-837990) to import a sport-hunted polar bear trophy, taken prior to April 30, 1994, from the Davis Strait population, Northwest Territories, Canada for personal use.

Notice is hereby given that on March 3, 1998, as authorized by the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, *as amended* (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) the Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the requested permit subject to certain conditions set forth therein.

Documents and other information submitted for these applications are available for review by any party who submits a written request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Rm 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Phone (703) 358-2104 or Fax (703) 358-2281.

Dated: March 13, 1998.

MaryEllen Amtower,

Acting Chief, Branch of Permits, Office of Management Authority.

[FR Doc. 98-7080 Filed 3-18-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Application for a Natural Gas Pipeline Right-of-Way

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that under Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (41 Stat. 449; 30 U.S.C. 185), as amended by Public Law 93-153,